

# **U.S. Department of Labor Office of Youth Opportunities (OYO) Youth Opportunity Grants (YOG) Technical Assistance Update**

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The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) Office of Youth Services/Office of Youth Opportunities (OYO) brings you the Youth Opportunity Grant (YOG) Technical Assistance Update. On a bi-weekly basis, the update will provide important announcements and information for YOG sites, partners, and coaches.

Please let us know if these updates are useful to you and how it might be improved to better serve your needs. If you have information or items to contribute, or topics that you would like see covered, please contact Susan Rosenblum, Office of Youth Opportunities, at [srosenblum@doleta.gov](mailto:srosenblum@doleta.gov) or (202) 693-3597.

## **Memo for YOG Sites on Follow-Up and Retention Strategies**

Follow-up services facilitate and support youth development and retention in long-term employment and education placements. Please review the new Youth Opportunity Grants Memorandum - "Follow-Up and Retention Services" that is attached with this week's

listserv. You can also view and download a copy of the memo and previous YOG Memorandum on the Internet at [http://www.doleta.gov/youth\\_services/yoglibrary.asp](http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/yoglibrary.asp).

## **Youth Development Practitioner Apprenticeship Competitive Grants Available**

On April 4, 2001, the U.S. Department of Labor announced competitive grants to be awarded under the Youth Development Practitioner Apprenticeship initiative. This initiative targets incumbent and prospective professional youth workers working directly with young people. The funding available for these grants is \$1.45 million dollars and includes three distinct categories for application and award. The closing date for applications is May 11. You can download the grant application and find additional information, including a concept paper on the Internet at <http://www.usworkforce.org/whatsnew.asp#232> or go to the Office of Youth Services Web Site - ([http://www.doleta.gov/youth\\_services/](http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/)

## **Funds Available to Enhance Youth Connections and Access to the One-Stop System**

On March 19, 2001, the USDOL announced the availability of funds to local workforce investment boards to encourage local areas to develop innovative strategies to enhance youth connections and access to One-Stop systems. While YOG sites themselves are not eligible to apply for funds, they may want to encourage the local Youth Council and WIB to send a proposal. Communities could use the funds to enhance services/centers for youth who are not eligible for the program because they live outside the target area. The deadline for application is April 25, 2001.

USDOL will award planning grants up to \$20,000 that will be used to develop a strategic plan and conduct activities that support youth connections and linkages to One-Stop systems. The grants are intended to enhance One-Stop connections for youth by supporting a range of strategies. These include marketing and outreach strategies to recruit youth to use One-Stop systems and creating employer and provider linkages among local youth-serving agencies and other agencies with the One-Stop system.

Planning grant funds can be used to convene strategic planning sessions, hire facilitators, conduct resource mapping, and support other activities necessary to develop and implement effective strategies for enhancing youth connections to One-Stop systems.

At the conclusion of the project, the Department will provide a forum for grantees to meet and exchange lessons learned and

promising practices for enhancing youth connections to One-Stop systems.

You can read and download the full TEGL 16-00, *Availability of Funds to Support Planning Projects that Enhance Youth Connections and Access to the One-Stop System*, on the Internet at:

<http://www.usworkforce.org>. The TEGL includes instructions on how to prepare your application for funds.

### **YOUTHZone – A special exhibit at JETTCON2001**

Over the next decade, workforce professionals will face unprecedented challenges in serving our nation's youth.

YOUTHZone, a special exhibit at **JETT\*CON2001**, will showcase exciting new tools and techniques to help us meet those challenges.

YOUTHZone will:

- I. Give visitors hands-on experience in a facility specially designed for attracting and serving youth;
- II. Illustrate the full menu of services for promoting personal growth and employment prospects for young people;
- III. Demonstrate cutting-edge technology in a professional youth development environment.

The 4,000 square foot YOUTHZone will incorporate youth-friendly elements throughout,

showing how the creative use of space can bring together young people from all backgrounds, inspiring them to get involved. Its design will showcase a wide range of accessibility features, as well as sensitivity to the cultural backgrounds of a community's youth.

Visitors to the YOUTHZone will also witness the latest in:

- IV. One-Stop services and systems for youth;
- V. Up-to-date education, activity-tracking and case management technologies and Internet links to services, training, employment, and information resources;
- VI. Mini-sessions demonstrating youth best practices, highlighting the National Youth Employment Coalition's PEPNet initiative, exploring youth center design issues, and providing background information on key youth employment/development issues; and
- VII. Electronic tools to aid young people in job preparation, resume development and personal projects.

Youth coordinators and young people will serve as guides and information resources for YOUTHZone visitors, who will experience cutting-edge advances in the field and leave with a deeper understanding of how they can strengthen youth services in their own communities.

**REGISTER NOW!**

Starting today—April 6, 2001—you can register for **JETT\*CON2001** on the Internet at:  
<http://www.jettcon.org>.